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May 22, 2013

TO: Michigan Committees
House Families, Children, and Seniors
House Judiciary
Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services
Senate Judiciary

SUBJ: TESTIMONY on HB 4646, 4647, 4648, 4659, 4660, 4661, and 4662

Dads & Moms PAC has reviewed HB 4646, 4647, 4648m 4659, 4660, 4661, and 4662 and respectfully request that the Committee invite further analysis before approval.

Analysis and observations lead to the conclusion that there may be some undesirable secondary effects with the passage of the bills.

1. Bill language appears to dismiss judicial discretion in several instances.
2. A Father Registry is imposing profiling and if a registry is created in addition to the current methods for identifying parents, then the registry should include the Mother, Father, Child, Stepparents, and Grandparents, not unlike the Ancestry Registry or the immigration registration process. The registry should be named Parent Registry. Imagine your son or grandson being on a Fathers Registry due to an unwed pregnancy. A State level registry will be a very cost intensive tracking mechanism, especially if it is created separately in 50 States. Current State computer systems are capable of recording family lineage, to some extent, particularly the parent/child relationship.
3. For a child whose mother has surrendered custody and placed the child for adoption, the fit Father should be contacted, and provided the right for custody of the child. A military service member would not have any choice to Father a child with a unilateral decision by the Mother. When the Mother intends to place the child up for adoption without the Fathers knowledge, the Mother in effect is committing paternity fraud. The Acknowledgement of Parentage form is a current practice to identify the Father (many times falsely). Mandatory DNA testing for unwed parents is a low cost positive method for identifying the parents and would mitigate contested situations of paternity.
4. House Bill 4659, Page 4, Line 16 through Page 5, line 6: This will penalize the alleged Father for failing to register, yet presumes that registering is a defacto



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affidavit of paternity, and may subject a non-putative father to 18 years of child support and costs.

5. House Bill 4662, Page 2, Lines 17 through 2: This is a dismissal of paternal rights, based purely on failing to register, even if the State is able to determine through DNA testing.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in professional dialogue and provide expert testimony with regard to these issues. We applaud you for your service to the State of Michigan and wish you great success.

Sincerely,

Jim Semerad

Dads and Moms PAC is dedicated to legislation reform keeping biological parents actively engaged in the lives of their children despite divorce and custody. We are frequently called upon to provide expert witness, testimony, and analysis to legislators, media, and analysts. We have been recognized for our dedication and commitment to family preservation.